

NHTSA-98-4124-268

Webmaster - Please forward HI Ab out HID lamps

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From: wingnut@fdt.net  
To: Webmaster <NHTSA>  
Date: Tue, Jan 19, 1999 9:38 PM  
Subject: Please forward?? About HID lamps

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKET SECTION

99 FEB 19 AM 9:39

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Hello -

I looked for a place to send email to on your website, but this was the only email link I found. You have a link for problems with specific car models, but none for general highway safety concerns. I think you should.

Will you please forward this to the proper organization?

This is in reference to the following article:

<http://cnn.com/TECH/science/9901/19/new.headlights.ap/index.html>

It concerns me that many cars will soon be equipped with HID (High Intensity Discharge) headlights. I for one, and my wife for two, find it near impossible to look at the road at night when the oncoming car has these headlights on. They are too powerful and too blue. They actually hurt to look at them, compared to halogen, which doesn't hurt to look at.

Also, has anyone found out how much Ultra-Violet radiation is being emitted from these lights? How nice for night drivers, their irises wide open, to be bathed in a light with an intense UV component. Where do you think the blue tinge to the light's color comes from? Do you even know that excess UV WILL cause cataracts? If there's no UV coming from HID lamps, then we have nothing to fear. But do we know this? Does anyone, save myself, care?

Do the manufacturers of these lights, and anyone else associated with them or their approval for use, know what kind of litigation they may be opening themselves up to? I suppose if the profit gained from their use minus the loss due to litigation is still a positive number, then they will be used anyway. Witness the actions of the Ford Motor Company & the Pinto. Or GM and the Chevrolet/GMC trucks.

Thank you for your time.

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